

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 06070 110901Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 MCT-01
TRSE-00 IO-13 /076 W

-----110904Z 021792 /13

O R 110808Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3764

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

UNCLAS CAIRO 6070

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG LY

SUBJ: EGYPTIAN PRESS REPORTS MOUNTING TENSION IN LIBYA

1. "STORMING" OF EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI BY "TWO HUNDRED" DEMONSTRATORS APRIL 9 WAS REPORTED IN FAIRLY LOW KEY BY EGYPTIAN PRESS ON APRIL 10. THIS MORNING (APRIL 11), HOWEVER, PRESS TREATMENT OF LIBYAN EVENTS BORDERS ON THE SENSATIONAL. AKHBAR RED BANNER: " GRAVE TENSION AGAINST QADHAFI IN BENGHAZI - THE MASSES AND TRIBES VIOLENTLY DENOUNCE 21 EXECUTIONS -- QADHAFI REQUESTS UNDERSTANDING FROM AMERICAN..... CARTER TURNS HIM DOWN."

2. ACCORDING LOCAL REPORTING, TENSION MOUNTING IN BENGHAZI, WITH ARMY UNITS SEALING OFF CITY CENTER AND GUARDING ALL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, INCLUDING ASU. MILITARY POLICE REPORTEDLY MANNING NUMBER OF CHECKPOINTS.

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 06070 110901Z

2. AHAM CLAIMS STRONG MEASURES WERE ORDERED FOLLOWING DISCOVERY BY LIBYAN INTELLIGENCE OF PLAN ORGANIZED BY THE ABIDAT TRIBE TO UNDERTAKE "REVOLUTIONARY OPERATIONS" AGAINST QADHAFI REGIME IN RETALIATION FOR "MASSACRE" OF THE 22 OFFICERS (WHO RECENTLY EXECUTED).

3. PRESS REPORTS 138 EGYPTIAN PASSENGERS WERE REFUSED

PERMISSION DISEMBARK AT BENGHAZI APRIL 10 AFTER BEING
DETAINED 14 HOURS.

4. PRESS OBSERVERS QADHAFI HAS SENT VARIOUS SIGNALS
TO USG, OFFERING FOSTER BETTER RELATIONS, BUT PRESIDENT
CARTER HAS POINTEDLY REBUFFED THEM.

5. COMMENT: WITH BOTH AKHBAR AND AHRAM FEATURING NOT
ONLY STORIES OF TROUBLE IN LIBYA BUT ALSO RUNNING
FRONT PAGE PICTURES OF VP MUBARAK RECEIVING EGYPTIAN
AMBASSADOR TO TRIPOLI, RENEWED GOE FOCUS ON LIBYA IS
CLEAR. ALL STORIES AND EDITORIALS MAKE PLAIN
GOE VIEW THAT QADHAFI AND "HIS AGENTS" HAVE BROUGHT
THE TROUBLE ON THEMSELVES.
MATTHEWS

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